

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ABU DH 00387 01 OF 02 201117Z

42

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /007 W

----- 110787

P 200840Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2597

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 ABU DHABI 0387

LIMDIS

FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, TC

SUBJ: POST'S COMMENTS ON INSPECTION REPORT

1. AS PER NEA/ARP REQUEST OF DEC 10, 1974, EMBASSY
SUBMITTING FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON ABU DHABI INSPECTION
REPORT TELEGRAPHICALLY TO MEET FEB 20 DEADLINE.

2. AS GENERAL OBSERVATION, WE BELIEVE INSPECTION REPORT
IS FAIR AND THOROUGH APPRAISAL OF POST'S OBJECTIVES, AND
EXISTING ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT SET UP TO MDCT THEM.
REGARDING THE OVERALL OBSERVATIONS IN BASIC REPORT (AS
DISTINCT FROM SPECIFIC MEMORANDA ON INDIVIDUAL POSTS),
ON THE POLICY SIDE WE BELIEVE THAT POST'S RECENT SERIES
OF CABLES ON STATE OF LOCAL SCENE AND OUR RELATIONS HERE
ARE FULL AND SUFFICIENT COMMENT AND INDICATE THAT WE
HAVE LITTLE TO QUARREL WITH IN INSPECTORS' OBSERVATIONS.
AS FOR GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON MANAGEMENT, COMMENTS CAN
BEST BE HANDLED IN DEALING WITH SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS
ON THIS POST. WE WERE, HOWEVER, STRUCK BY OBSERVATION
ON PAGE 15 OF REPORT (END PARA B.1) RE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL
FUNDS FOR GULF POSTS FACING "CURRENT DYNAMIC SITUATION."
AS WILL BE CLEAR FROM OUR 371 ON CURRENT BUDGET CUTS,
WE COULD NOT AGREE MORE AND HOPE BUREAU CAN BE PERSUADED
TO APPRECIATE UNIQUENESS OUR SITUATION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ABU DH 00387 01 OF 02 201117Z

3. TURNING TO SPECIFIC MEMORANDA ON THIS POST IN ORDER

OF NUMBERED RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN:

(A) COMMERCIAL OFFICE IN DUABI: POST HAS BEEN ON RECORD FOR SOME TIME ADVOCATING ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMERCIAL OFFICE IN DUBAI. WE AGREE THAT SUCH OFFICE MANNED BY LOCAL EMPLOYEE COULD BE USEFUL FIRST STEP AND WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ALLOCATE REMAINING AUTHORIZED BUT UNFILLED LOCAL POSITION TO THIS FUNCTION. OBVIOUSLY, HOWEVER, CURRENT BUDGET CUTS RULE THIS OUT FOR PRESENT. POST CONTINUES TO URGE THAT FUNDING BE APPROVED IN FY 76 FOR ESTABLISHMENT DUBAI OFFICE. WE SHOULD MOREOVER EMPHASIZE THAT SUCH OFFICE MANNED ONLY BY LOCAL EMPLOYEE WOULD BE ONLY INTERIM REPEAT INTERIM SOLUTION. TO REALLY DO JOB WHICH INSPECTORS AND OTHERS HAVE OUTLINED, THERE WILL BE NO ADEQUATE SUBSTITUTE FOR HAVING AMERICAN COMMERCIAL OFFICER POSITION AUTHORIZED FOR DUABI.

(B) SECURITY: POST AGREES FULLY WITH THIS MEMORANDUM. IT HAS BEEN TESTED AND IS FUNCTIONING PROPERLY. RE E&E PLAN, EMBASSY IS PROCEEDING WITH DRAFTING OF INDIVIDUAL PLAN FOR THIS POST. WE ARE ACTING ON ASSUMPTION, IN ABSENCE ANY ADVICE TO CONTRARY IN RESPONSE TO VARIOUS INQUIRIES INITIATED AS LONG AGO AS OCTOBER 1973, THAT US/UK AGREEMENT MENTIONED INSPECTOR'S MEMORANDUM IS NO LONGER APPLICABLE. THIS IN OUR VIEW IS AS IT SHOULD BE BOTH BECAUSE OF REDUCED BRITISH PRESENCE IN GULF, BUT ALSO BECAUSE POSSIBLE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS (MOST LIKELY E & E SITUATION FOR THIS POST) WILL PROBABLY NOT IMPACT EQUALLY ON BOTH COUNTRIES. POST IS UNABLE AT THIS TIME PROJECT COMPLETION DATE FOR E & E PLAN AND OUR INITIAL SUBMISSION WILL QUITE POSSIBLY BE ABBREVIATED VERSION WITH ASSORTED ANNEXES TO FOLLOW. SUFFICE IT TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT COMPLETION OF PLAN IS ITEM OF HIGH PRIORITY FOR THIS POST.

(C) ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS: UNFORTUNATELY PROBLEMS OUTLINED IN INSPECTOR'S MEMORANDUM REGARDING UNEVEN POST FINANCING IN FY 74 HAVE CONTINUED WITH DELAYS IN AND NOW SLASHING OF FY 75 BUDGET. SO LONG AS POST FUNDING HANDLED IN THIS MANNER IT WILL MOST DIFFICULT TO

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ABU DH 00387 01 OF 02 201117Z

ESTABLISH SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OPERATION ABLE MEET ASSIGNED OBJECTIVES. POST HAS INCREASED LOCAL STAFF WITH HIRING GSO ASSISTANT AND ADDITIONAL DRIVER. WE ON OTHER HAND LOST EXPERIENCED B&F OFFICER WHO WAS PRESENT AT TIME OF INSPECTION. WHILE CAPABLE REPLACEMENT IS NOW ON BOARD, SHE DOES NOT HAVE EXPERIENCE OF PREDECESSOR AND SUBSTANTIAL TIME HAS BEEN LOST IN TRAINING LOCAL B&F ASSISTANT. THIS CHANGE ALSO AFFECTS SITUATION WITH

REGARD TO CONSULAR STAFFING AND REGIONAL B&F OPERATION (SEE BELOW). REGARDING PROVISION OF STORAGE SPACE, BUDGET CUTS PRECLUDE CONVERTING PORTION OF GARAGE AS EARLIER CONTEMPLATED. MOREOVER, THIS WOULD BE INADEQUATE INTERIM SOLUTION AT BEST. POST THEREFORE CONTINUES HOPE BE ABLE OBTAIN PERMANENT STORAGE SPACE IN LOCAL WAREHOUSE WHICH IN PROCESS BEING RELOCATED ACROSS MUKHTAR BRIDGE ON MAINLAND CONSISTENT WITH NEW ABU DHABI ZONING REGULATIONS. RE TWO SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS TO POST, WE HAVE SET UP PROPERTY RECORD CARDS AS PER REGULATIONS. RESIDENTIAL INVENTORIES, WHICH ALSO RECOMMENDED, WILL BE COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT HAVE BEEN GIVEN LESSER PRIORITY AS THEY ARE NO LONGER MANDATORY PROCEDURE. POST HAS SUBMITTED JUSTIFICATION TO DEPT (OM DATED FEB 18, 1975) FOR TWO-YEAR REPLACEMENT OF VEHICLES AND STRONGLY URGES ITS APPROVAL. BOTH CHEVY SEDAN AND INTERNATIONAL CARRYALL ARE SPENDING INCREASING TIME IN GARAGE FOR MAINTENANCE AND STAND AS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF URGENT NEED TO ACCEPT INSPECTOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 ABU DH 00387 02 OF 02 220944Z

12

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /007 W

----- 010096

P 200840Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2598

S E C R E T FINAL SECTION OF 2 ABU DHABI 0387

LIMDIS

FOR NEA/ARP

(D) CONSULAR STAFFING: POST CONTINUES STRONGLY TO ENDORSE INSPECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION THAT FULL-TIME CONSULAR OFFICER BE ASSIGNED. PRESENT INCUMBENT HAS PROVIDED EFFECTIVE DESPITE LACK OF EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE, BUT BASIC CONFLICT OF RESPONSIBILITIES REMAINS AND CONSULAR WORKLOAD CONTINUES INCREASE (E.G. WE NOW

ESTIMATE NUMBER OF RESIDENT AMERICAN AT OVER 2,000).
POST THEREFORE MOST ENCOURAGED BY REPORTS THAT PROSPECTS
ARE GOOD FOR GETTING CONSULAR OFFICER IN FY 76. AS
FOR PROVIDING PART-TIME RELIEF THROUGH USE OF B&F
OFFICER, POST BELIEVES IN FIRST INSTANCE INSTITUTING
SUCH POLICY UNNECESSARY IF PERMANENT, AND DESIRED,
SOLUTION IN SIGHT. MOREOVER, AS INDICATED ABOVE, B&F
SITUATION HAS CHANGED. INCUMBENT IS NO LONGER
EXPERIENCED OFFICER OBSERVED BY INSPECTORS.
NEVERTHELESS, POST IS PREPARED -- IF REGULAR CONSULAR
OFFICER NOT FORTHCOMING IN FY 76 -- TO ASSIGN B & F OFFICER
TO CONSULAR FUNCTIONS TWO DAYS A WEEK (I.E. TO HANDLE
APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF CONSULAR OPERATIONS). THIS
WOULD, OF COURSE, RULE OUT ANY POSSIBILITY OF OUR B&F
OFFICER ASSUMING REGIONAL B&F RESPONSIBILITIES (SEE
FURTHER BELOW) AND INCUMBENT WOULD NEED CONSULAR
COMMISSION FROM DEPT.

(E) MEDICAL SERVICES: INSPECTOR'S MEMORANDUM IS FINE,
BUT REGIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER HAS ALREADY INDICATED TO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ABU DH 00387 02 OF 02 220944Z

POST THAT HE MAY BE ABLE TO VISIT ONLY THREE TIMES A
YEAR INSTEAD OF FOUR (SUCH VISITS MAY EVEN BE LESS IN
VIEW CUT IN TRAVEL FUNDS). WE HAVE STRONGLY
RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE OF QUARTERLY SCHEDULE AND
HAVE NOTED IN THIS REGARD THAT BUDGET CUTS HAVE PREVENTED
HIRING OF CONTRACT NURSE WHICH RMO RECOMMENDED AS BACK-UP
TO THIS SERVICES. CONTRACT NURSE WOULD, OF COURSE, ALSO
BE MAJOR HELP IN ORDERING OF MEDICAL ITEMS, PROBLEM
CITED SPECIFICALLY BY INSPECTOR.

(F) RESIDENCE AND CHANCERY - LOOKING AHEAD: AS DEPT.
AWARE, WE HOPE ARRANGEMENT HAS BEEN MADE FOR CONSTRUCTION
OF RESIDENCE. PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTERED IN
THIS REGARD (AND MORE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY STILL AHEAD)
SERVE TO REINFORCE, HOWEVER, IN STRONGEST TERMS INSPECTOR'S
RECOMMENDATION THAT FBO START PLANNING NOW TO SEEK
FUNDS FROM CONGRESS BOTH FOR NEW CHANCERY AS WELL AS TO EXERCISE
PURCHASE OPTION OF NEW RESIDENCE. AS INSPECTOR CATEGORICALLY POINTS
OUT, PRESENT CHANCERY BUILDING IS IN NO WAY ADEQUATE FOR LONG TERM.
IF FBO STARTS APPROPRIATE PROCESS NOW TO GET FUNDS, WE WILL BE ABLE
TO MAKE TIMELY MOVE TO QUARTERS.

(G) ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT: ONLY TWO COMMENTS
APPEAR APPROPRIATE ON THIS MEMORANDUM. FIRST, STAFFING/
WORKLOAD OF ADMIN SECTION HAS CHANGED. AS NOTED ABOVE
SWITCH IN B&F OFFICERS HAS REDUCED EXPERIENCE LEVEL THERE.
AT SAME TIME, C&R OFFICER NOW RESPONSIBILITY POIING
UNCLASSIFIED TRAFFIC ON ASR 28 BRINGING HIS DUTIES

MORE NEARLY UP TO NORMAL C&R FUNCTION. WITH CURRENT C&R OFFICER AWAY FOR THREE OUT OF LAST FOUR MONTHS ON MEDICAL PROBLEM WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ASSESS FULLY HOW MUCH EXCESS TIME HE MIGHT NOW HAVE, BUT CLEARLY IT HAS BEEN REDUCED. WE BELIEVE THERE IS PROBABLY STILL SOME EXCESS CAPACITY IN SECTION (HENCE OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER BACK-STOPPING CONSULAR SECTION WITH B&F OFFICER) BUT NOT RPT NOT TO SAME DEGREE AS DURING TIME OF INSPECTION. SECOND POINT IS TO CONCUR MOST STRONGLY WITH INSPECTOR'S OBSERVATION THAT OUR REPRESENTATION FUNDS ARE "LUDICROUSLY INADEQUATE." EVEN THOUGH CURRENT ALLOCATION IS \$2,500 (I.E. \$1,250 MORE THAN AT TIME OF INSPECTION) IT IS STILL ONLY HALF OF \$5,000 WHICH WE BUDGETED AND WHICH
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ABU DH 00387 02 OF 02 220944Z

INSPECTOR LABELED "VERY MODEST REQUEST INDEED." WE HAVE SAID IT ALL BEFORE, BUT WE CAN ONLY REITERATE THAT IF POST'S OFFICERS ARE EXPECTED TO PERFORM THEIR FUNCTIONS, REQUIRING ENTERTAINING NOT ONLY IN HOME BUT ALSO IN EXPENSEIVE RESTAURANTS DURING FREQUENT TRIPS TO DUBAI AND OTHER EMIRATES OF THIS FEDERATION, THEY MUST BE GIVEN FUNDS TO DO SO. WHILE WE CANNOT EXPECT TO KEEP UP WITH ALL THE JONESES IN THIS OIL RICH COUNTRY, INSPECTORS WERE QUITE CORRECT WHEN THEY CALLED EXISTING ALTERNATIVE "LUDICROUS."

(H) REGIONAL B&F OFFICER: POST HAS CONSIDERABLE DOUBT AS TO ADVISABILITY THIS RECOMMENDATION. IN FIRST INSTANCES WE DEFINITELY CANNOT USE INCUMBENT B&F OFFICER BOTH TO BACKSTOP CONSULAR SECTION AND DO REGIONAL WORK. MOREOVER, AS NOTED ABOVE, OUR ADMIN SECTION NO LONGER HAS SAME DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY (I.E. EXCESS CAPACITY) OBSERVED BY INSPECTOR. OUR MAJOR CONCERN, HOWEVER, IS WITH BASIC PROBLEMS INHERENT IN REGIONAL OPERATIONS. INSPECTORS HAVE OUTLINED THESE IN SOME DETAIL IN SEPARATE MEMORANDUM ENTITLED "EXPERIENCE WITH REGIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES" AND WE FAIL SEE WHY THEY BELIEVE REGIONAL B&F OPERATION BASED IN ABU DHABI WILL PROVIDE BETTER SERVICE. TO BE FRANK, THIS POST IS NOT LIKELY TO LET ITS B&F WORK SUFFER AT EXPENSE OF THAT OF ANOTHER POST. IN OTHER WORDSN REGIONAL SET-UP MIGHT WORK FOR ABU DHABI, BUT WE QUESTION WHETHER OUR COLLEAGUES UP AND DOWN GULF WILL BE EQUALLY PLEASED. WE MUST ALSO NOTE THAT IF ADDITIONAL LOCAL EMPLOYEES PROVE NECESSARY TO HANDLE SUCH OPERATION (AND KUWAIT HAD SIX TO OUR PRESENT ONE) WE WILL FACE PROBLEM OF OFFICE SPACE WITH NO SOLUTION IN SIGHT. IN SHORT, WE BELIEVE THIS RECOMMENDATION SHOULD BE GIVEN SECOND LOOK.

4. POST WILL, OF COURSE, BE MOST INTERESTED IN DEPT'S

REPOSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS DIRECTED ITS WAY AND HOPES
PROMPT ACTION CAN BE TAKEN ON MANY.
STERNER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ABUDH00387
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750063-1074
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750229/aaaaazvz.tel
Line Count: 280
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POST'S COMMENTS ON INSPECTION REPORT
TAGS: AFSP, TC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006